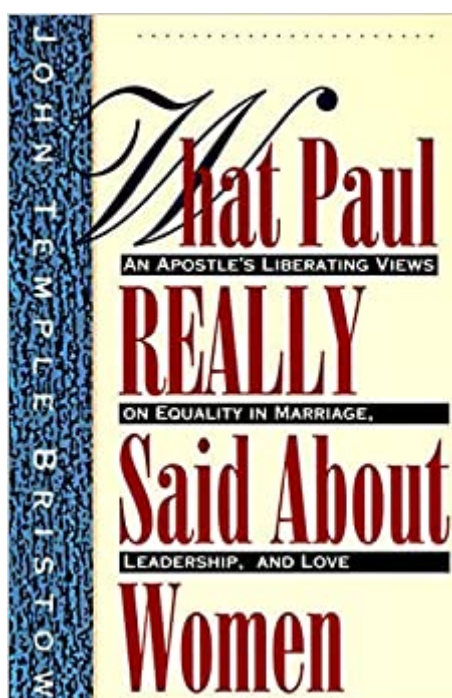


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# What Paul Really Said About Women: The Apostle's Liberating Views On Equality In Marriage, Leadership, And Love



## Synopsis

A challenge to the traditional understanding of St. Paul's epistles and sexism in today's church.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A challenge to the traditional understanding of St. Paul's epistles and sexism in today's church.

Dr. John Temple Bristow is a Disciples of Christ Pastor in Seattle, Washington.

Simple and concise historical look at the socio-political context of the day in which Paul was writing. In order to fully understand scripture, we must first understand what the author (Paul) would have meant to convey to his original read/listener. For proper exegesis, we must always look at the scripture in the day and time in which it was written; how the language was used in that day and time; what was going on in the world; who the writer is, and who his audience was (Jewish? Gentile? Christian? Non-Christian?). After that, we can better determine the message and how it was to be applied in that day and time, and then, and only then, make application to our day and time. In other words, we have to determine a) what it says, before b) what it means, and then c) how it affects us today. Bristow does a good job of bringing these elements together to help us better understand Paul's intent through his teachings on women's role within the body of Christ. Bristow challenges his readers to be honest about the lens with which we view Paul's writings on this subject, and to humbly adjust to scriptural truth when we determine that we have followed incorrect,

lazy applications of Paul's advice. Good read, very approachable, and challenging.

I was initially quite surprised at the small size of this book. For such a controversial topic, I didn't think it was possible to bring clarity in anything less than 500 pages. However, I was proved wrong, as Mr. Bristow is able to address the origins of current sentiments in Christian churches to Greek philosophers (who were very strongly anti-woman) in 119 pages (not including the notes, general index, and scriptural index at the end of the text). Bristow's main thesis aims at showing the pre-existing biases that existed in Roman and Greek culture before the time of Jesus; these biases were naturally absorbed into the framework of church leaders, but not Paul! Bristow makes a convincing argument that Paul's words about the equality of the women in the church (he didn't want them to be segregated, as in the past; wanted them to be educated; allowed them to prophecy and have ministry) were very radical for a time period in which women other than high-class prostitutes were not allowed to leave their houses (of either their fathers or husbands), let alone be in the presence of men. The extreme view that existed in ancient times is best summarized when Bristow states, "Roman men tended to share the Greek view of women as objects of pleasure or sources of temptation" (12). "What Paul Really Said About Women" is a very well researched and defended argument that Paul's words argued for radical equality rather than subjection. While I read it on my own, there are discussion questions at the end of each chapter that would be good for a Bible study group or for class discussion in a Christian course on gender equality.

I found this book to be very helpful. When I was growing up I was given an out of date understanding of what Paul said at the church I went to. This book is clear and concise as to what a more accurate understanding of Paul's epistles were intended to say. It helped heal a lot of old wounds.. I have purchased many copies of this book over the years and I give them to folks. They have had very similar reactions to mine. Various Christian churches have used the epistles of Paul to oppress women and it was important to me to find out that they had interpreted it incorrectly and frankly it was very old and out of date theology.

This is truly an amazing book! I just can't say enough good things about it. This is a resource which is very thorough in laying the historical groundwork upon which many erroneous, inaccurate, & even misogynistic "interpretations" are based. Additionally, pertinent Scriptures are very carefully examined in the original languages to ensure an interpretation that more accurately reflects the essence of them. This is a must-read eye-opener for women who just know in their hearts God

created them for so much more than what they've been told they're limited to. My mouth must have dropped open 100 times in the course of reading this book. It was so good that I regularly recommend it to & share it with ladies of all ages, including my own daughters who are 19 & 13. This is a must-have!

Every Christian should read this - woman or man. I know that's not going to happen, but I was able to use this well put together information for a series on the subject in a women's bible study group. Helped make sense out of the issue and cleared up a number of misunderstandings about what Paul was saying -- and therefore, what God was saying about women.

Informative, interesting and historically enlightening perspective on the issue. I love the authors tone of humility and presenting the facts as he sees them. Helped me through many tough questions I believe anyone growing up in the church has by the time they reach adulthood.

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